

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

UTAH STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program is designed to promote historic preservation at the local level. It is a federal program (National Park Service) that is administered by the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Local governments must meet certain qualifications to become "certified" and thereby qualify to receive matching grants from SHPO. These include passing a historic preservation ordinance and appointing a Historic Preservation Commission.

CLG Benefits

- **Grants:** CLGs may apply for annual grants from SHPO. The grants, which require a 50/50 match, have typically been in the \$5,000--\$10,000 range in recent years. Grants can be used for a broad range of preservation activities, though some of the most common grant-funded projects include the following:
 - Surveys of historic properties and accompanying context studies
 - National Register nominations of either individual buildings or historic districts
 - Public education activities: walking tour booklets, websites, etc.
 - Preservation planning: updating ordinances, preparing design guidelines, administering local preservation programs, etc.
 - Architectural and engineering studies and plans for rehabilitating historic properties
 - "Brick-and-mortar" rehabilitation work on National Register-listed buildings
 - Training: workshops and conferences for staff and commission members
- **SHPO and National Park Service assistance:** CLGs enjoy a partnership relationship with the state and federal agencies that have the primary responsibility for promoting historic preservation in the U.S. As such, CLGs are able to tap into the expertise and resources of these agencies in order to help address their local preservation issues.

- **Networking:** Through CLG workshops, conferences, listservs, and websites, CLGs are able to participate in the discussion of preservation issues with other local governments throughout the state and country.
- **Increased Effectiveness:** By participating in the CLG program, local governments become more skilled and effective at promoting the economic, social, and educational benefits of historic preservation in their communities. They are also able to avoid much of the controversy that comes from mishandled local historic preservation issues.

CLG Certification Requirements

The basic certification requirements for local governments are as follows:

- Establish a historic preservation commission and appoint interested and qualified residents to serve. To the extent they are available, at least some of the commission members should meet "professional" qualifications in the disciplines of history, architecture, architectural history, archaeology, or related fields.
- Pass a preservation ordinance that outlines how the local government will address historic preservation issues. We have a model ordinance that can serve as a starting point; many communities have adopted it almost word-for-word.
- Agree to participate in updating and expanding the state's historic building inventory program. SHPO takes the lead in this effort by maintaining the master database and the files for the statewide inventory, and by providing grants to survey additional properties.
- Agree to review and comment on any National Register of Historic Places nominations of properties within the local government boundaries. Nominations are usually submitted by the property owners themselves or other members of the public. SHPO administers the National Register program in Utah.
- Affirm that it will fulfill its obligation to enforce existing state preservation laws. (Local governments are required to enforce state laws already, so this isn't a new requirement. Plus there are no strict state historic preservation laws.)

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<https://heritage.utah.gov/history/clgs>